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What is claimed is:

1. A compound 8 to 80 nucleobases in length targeted to a nucleic acid molecule encoding apolipoprotein C-III, wherein
5 said compound specifically hybridizes with said nucleic acid molecule encoding apolipoprotein C-III (SEQ ID NO: 4) and inhibits the expression of apolipoprotein C-III.
2. The compound of claim 1 comprising 12 to 50
10 nucleobases in length.
3. The compound of claim 2 comprising 15 to 30 nucleobases in length.
- 15 4. The compound of claim 1 comprising an oligonucleotide.
5. The compound of claim 4 comprising an antisense oligonucleotide.
- 20 6. The compound of claim 4 comprising a DNA oligonucleotide.
7. The compound of claim 4 comprising an RNA oligonucleotide.
- 25 8. The compound of claim 4 comprising a chimeric oligonucleotide.

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9. The compound according to claim 8, wherein said chimeric oligonucleotide is 20 nucleotides in length, comprising ten 2'-deoxynucleotides, flanked on each side by five 2'-methoxyethyl nucleotides, wherein the
5 internucleoside linkages are phosphorothioate, and all cytidine residues are 5-methylcytidines.
10. The compound of claim 4 wherein at least a portion of said compound hybridizes with RNA to form an
10 oligonucleotide-RNA duplex.
11. The compound of claim 1 having at least 70% complementarity with a nucleic acid molecule encoding apolipoprotein C-III (SEQ ID NO: 4) said compound
15 specifically hybridizing to and inhibiting the expression of apolipoprotein C-III.
12. The compound of claim 1 having at least 80% complementarity with a nucleic acid molecule encoding
20 apolipoprotein C-III (SEQ ID NO: 4) said compound specifically hybridizing to and inhibiting the expression of apolipoprotein C-III.
13. The compound of claim 1 having at least 90%
25 complementarity with a nucleic acid molecule encoding apolipoprotein C-III (SEQ ID NO: 4) said compound specifically hybridizing to and inhibiting the expression of apolipoprotein C-III.

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14. The compound of claim 1 having at least 95% complementarity with a nucleic acid molecule encoding apolipoprotein C-III (SEQ ID NO: 4) said compound specifically hybridizing to and inhibiting the expression of
5 apolipoprotein C-III.

15. The compound of claim 1 having at least one modified internucleoside linkage, sugar moiety, or nucleobase.

10 16. The compound of claim 1 having at least one 2'-O-methoxyethyl sugar moiety.

17. The compound of claim 1 having at least one phosphorothioate internucleoside linkage.

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18. The compound of claim 1 having at least one 5-methylcytosine.

19. A method of inhibiting the expression of
20 apolipoprotein C-III in cells or tissues comprising contacting said cells or tissues with the compound of claim 1 so that expression of apolipoprotein C-III is inhibited.

20. A method of screening for a modulator of
25 apolipoprotein C-III, the method comprising the steps of:

a. contacting a preferred target segment of a nucleic acid molecule encoding apolipoprotein C-III with one or more candidate modulators of apolipoprotein C-III, and

b. identifying one or more modulators of
30 apolipoprotein C-III expression which modulate the expression of apolipoprotein C-III.

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21. The method of claim 20 wherein the modulator of apolipoprotein C-III expression comprises an oligonucleotide, an antisense oligonucleotide, a DNA oligonucleotide, an RNA oligonucleotide, an RNA
5 oligonucleotide having at least a portion of said RNA oligonucleotide capable of hybridizing with RNA to form an oligonucleotide-RNA duplex, or a chimeric oligonucleotide.
22. A diagnostic method for identifying a disease state
10 comprising identifying the presence of apolipoprotein C-III in a sample using at least one of the primers comprising SEQ ID NOs 5 or 6, or the probe comprising SEQ ID NO 7.
23. A kit or assay device comprising the compound of claim
15 1.
24. A method of treating an animal having a disease or condition associated with apolipoprotein C-III comprising administering to said animal a therapeutically or
20 prophylactically effective amount of the compound of claim 1 so that expression of apolipoprotein C-III is inhibited.
25. The method of claim 24 wherein the condition involves abnormal lipid metabolism.
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26. The method of claim 24 wherein the condition involves abnormal cholesterol metabolism.
27. The method of claim 24 wherein the condition is
30 atherosclerosis.

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28. The method of claim 24 wherein the condition is an abnormal metabolic condition.

29. The method of claim 28 wherein the abnormal metabolic
5 condition is hyperlipidemia.

30. The method of claim 24 wherein the disease is diabetes.

10 31. The method of claim 30 wherein the diabetes is Type 2 diabetes.

32. The method of claim 24 wherein the condition is obesity.

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33. The method of claim 24 wherein the disease is cardiovascular disease.

20 34. A method of modulating glucose levels in an animal comprising administering to said animal the compound of claim 1.

35. The method of claim 34 wherein the animal is a human.

25 36. The method of claim 34 wherein the glucose levels are plasma glucose levels.

37. The method of claim 34 wherein the glucose levels are serum glucose levels.

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38. The method of claim 34 wherein the animal is a diabetic animal.

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39. A method of preventing or delaying the onset of a disease or condition associated with apolipoprotein C-III in an animal comprising administering to said animal a
5 therapeutically or prophylactically effective amount of the compound of claim 1.

40. The method of claim 39 wherein the animal is a human.

10 41. The method of claim 39 wherein the condition is an abnormal metabolic condition.

42. The method of claim 41 wherein the abnormal metabolic condition is hyperlipidemia.

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43. The method of claim 39 wherein the disease is diabetes.

20 44. The method of claim 43 wherein the diabetes is Type 2 diabetes.

45. The method of claim 39 wherein the condition is obesity.

25 46. A method of lowering cholesterol levels in an animal comprising administering to said animal the compound of claim 1.

30 47. The method of claim 46 wherein the animal is a human.

48. The method of claim 46 wherein the cholesterol levels are plasma cholesterol levels.

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49. The method of claim 46 wherein the cholesterol levels are serum cholesterol levels.
- 5 50. A method of lowering triglyceride levels in an animal comprising administering to said animal the compound of claim 1.
51. The method of claim 50 wherein the animal is a human.
- 10 52. The method of claim 50 wherein the triglyceride levels are plasma triglyceride levels.
53. The method of claim 50 wherein the triglyceride levels are serum triglyceride levels.
- 15 54. A method of reducing serum glucose levels in an animal comprising contacting said animal with the compound of claim 1.
- 20 55. A method of decreasing fasted serum insulin levels in an animal comprising contacting said animal with the compound of claim 1.
- 25 56. Use of a compound of any of claims 1-18 in the preparation of a medicament for treating an animal having a disease or condition associated with apolipoprotein C-III, so that expression of apolipoprotein C-III is inhibited.
- 30 57. Use of a compound of any of claims 1-18 in the preparation of a medicament for modulating glucose levels in an animal.

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58. Use of a compound of any of claims 1-18 in the preparation of a medicament for preventing or delaying the onset of a disease or condition associated with apolipoprotein C-III, said disease or condition selected
5 from the group consisting of an abnormal metabolic condition, hyperlipidemia, diabetes, Type 2 diabetes, or obesity.

59. Use of a compound of any of claims 1-18 in the
10 preparation of a medicament for modulating cholesterol levels in an animal.

60. Use of a compound of any of claims 1-18 in the preparation of a medicament for lowering triglyceride levels
15 in an animal.